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there are eight kinds of fools, and the following are some examples. A farmer hearing a noise on the roof of his house one night, went out to discover the cause of it. There he saw his two sons perched on the house, one with a long bamboo pole, which he held aloft, pointing skyward with a sweeping motion. The old man could not make out what they were up to; then he heard the younger son remark to his brother: 'You can never knock down those little yellow things with that short pole; you must get a longer one; tie two bamboo poles together!' 'What are you two youngsters trying to do?' inquired the father at last. 'Why we are trying to knock down the stars,' explained the

older son. 'Go on, you stupid fellows,' shouted the old man, 'you will never knock those down, even if you had the longest pole on earth. Don't you know those are the holes through which the rain falls?'"

For very short stories the next is a good example: "A *samurai* was once walking along the street when he saw a sign to the following effect: Fencing and sword practice of all schools taught here! On going in to inquire, he was told that none of the household knew anything of fencing. Thereupon the officer demanded why they put out the sign. 'O,' replied one of them, 'that is only to frighten away robbers.'"

DR. J. INGRAM BRYAN, in the *Japan Magazine*.

THE NEW YEAR PINE

Atarashiki
Toshi no hogigoto
Kiku niwa ni
Yorodzu yo yobo-o
Noki no matsu kaze!

While New Year celebration fills my mind and heart,
I seem to hear above the palace eaves apart,
Winds calling midst the pines my garden doth adorn:
The voice of countless generations yet unborn!

MOONLIGHT ON THE SNOW

Kie nokoru
Matsu no kokage no
Shirayuki ni
Sasu kage samishi
Ariake no tsuki!

At dawn, how cold the waiting moon doth shine
On remnants of the snow beneath the pine!

By Meiji Tenno

Trans. by Mrs. Douglas Adam.